

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTSCONSOLIDATED TERMS OF REFERENCECOMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, being charged under the Charter with the responsibility of promoting universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion, and requiring advice and assistance to enable it to discharge this responsibility.

ESTABLISHES A COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

The work of the Commission shall be directed towards submitting proposals, recommendations and reports to the Council regarding:

- (a) An international bill of rights;
- (b) International declarations or conventions on civil liberties, the status of women, freedom of information and similar matters;
- (c) The protection of minorities;
- (d) The prevention of discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language, or religion;
- (e) Any other matter concerning human rights not covered by items (a), (b), (c), and (d).

The Commission shall make studies and recommendations and provide information and other services at the request of the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission may propose to the Council any changes in its terms of reference.

The Commission may make recommendations to the Council concerning any sub-commission which it considers should be established.

(resolution of 21 June 1946)

DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON AN INTERNATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

TAKING NOTE of Chapter II, paragraph 10 of the report of the Commission on Human Rights,

REQUESTS the Secretariat to prepare a documented outline concerning an international bill of human rights; and

HAVING NOTED with approval the letter of the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to the President of the Economic and Social Council, dated 24 March 1947, including her statement of intention to appoint immediately a drafting committee of the Commission on Human Rights consisting of the members of the Commission on Human Rights representing Australia, Chile, China, France, Lebanon, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which will be convened prior to the second session of the Commission on Human Rights and prepare, on the basis of documentation supplied by the Secretariat, a preliminary draft of an international bill of human rights,

DECIDES

(a) That the draft prepared by the above-mentioned drafting committee be submitted to the second session of the Commission on Human Rights; and

(b) That the draft as developed by the Commission on Human Rights be submitted to all States Members of the United Nations for their observations, suggestions and proposals; and

(c) That these observations, suggestions and proposals then be considered as a basis of a re-draft, if necessary, by the drafting committee; and

(d) That the resulting draft then be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights for final consideration; and

(e) That the Council consider the proposed international bill of human rights as submitted by the Commission on Human Rights with a view to recommending an international bill of human rights to the General Assembly in 1948; and further

(f) That the Commission on Human Rights invite the officers of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur, to be present and participate without vote in its deliberations when sections of the draft of the international bill of human rights concerning the particular rights of women are being considered.

(resolution of 28 March 1947)

SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

RESOLVES that the functions of the Sub-Commission be:

(a) In the first instance, to examine what rights, obligations and practices should be included in the concept of freedom

of information, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights on any issues that may arise from such examination;

(b) To perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or by the Commission on Human Rights.

(resolution of 28 March 1947)

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

REQUESTS the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press to prepare, guided by resolution No. 59 (I) of 14 December 1946 of the General Assembly, a draft documented agenda for the Conference on Freedom of Information, and to submit this along with proposals concerning preparations for the Conference to the Commission on Human Rights and to the Council. These proposals shall include suggestions concerning the invitation of States not Members of the United Nations, and plans whereby appropriate specialized agencies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and appropriate non-governmental organizations may assist in the preparation of the Conference and attend it.

(resolution of 28 March 1947)

SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Decided that the functions of the Sub-Commission be:

(a) In the first instance, to examine what provisions should be adopted in the definition of the principles which are to be applied in the field of the prevention of discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language, or religion, and in the field of the protection of minorities, and to make recommendations to the Commission on urgent problems in these fields;

(b) To perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights.

(decision of 10 February 1947)